



STATE OF MICHIGAN

**Family
Independence
Agency**

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News Release

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Welfare caseload increased in December

LANSING – Family Independence Agency Director Douglas E. Howard announced today the December Family Independence Program (FIP) caseload was 75,792 . The November 2001 caseload was 73,922.

Howard said, “ Because we expected changes in the national and state economy, an increase in December’s caseload was not a surprise. Our budget was adjusted to account for that, so we are still able to meet the needs of Michigan families with temporary financial difficulties.”

While the caseload has been increasing over the past year, it is still down 66.6 percent from the most recent high of 226,863 in March 1994.

Governor John Engler said, “Even during difficult economic times, more public assistance recipients are working today than at any time in the past. That’s encouraging news and a sign that our welfare reform efforts are on target.”

Of the 75,792 cases in December, about 29,600 families (or about 39 percent) were required to participate in Work First and expected to work. Of the balance, about 23,100 were relatives raising children and about 23,100 had a temporary condition that excluded them from the employment requirements.

December data also show 63,977 families received day care for 121,715 children. The total Food Assistance Program caseload was 318,565 households representing 729,020 individuals. Since December 2000, this caseload has increased by 63,642 households, or 24.9 percent.

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For more information consult the FIA website at www.mfia.state.mi.us



JOHN ENGLER, Governor